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DISARMAMENT, AND THE WILL TO PEACE

Charles F. Boss, Jr.

The obliteration and annihilation, resident in the effects of atomic fission and hydrogen fusion bomb explosions have incited deep thinking about the future -- not only of the human race but of the earth. Such ideas were not unknown in ancient days. The prophets thought deeply upon ultimate questions. Isaiah, considering such questions, proclaimed, "Behold, Jehovah maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master...as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the creditor, so with the debtor...The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently...and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isaiah 24: 1, 2, 19, and 20.

Universal disarmament lags because man has not yet learned his lesson. Despite the rapid development of means of mass obliteration during and since World War II, man still continues to run the risk of atomic war rather than give up some of his cherished traditions. We do not minimize the importance of international agreements, nor the conflict of political structures of governments and their policies in seeking disarmament. We ought not, and do not, minimize the necessity for agreement on technical means of making world disarmament effective and complete.

So far as we know, scientists have not yet learned to detect the manufacture or existence of atomic or hydrogen bombs. They have only learned how to detect the explosion and power of such bombs. Scientists also fear the possible effects of radioactivity on the genetic and hereditary aspects of human life. They fear that the effects of the atomic and hydrogen bombs already exploded are as yet not fully known.

In a world situation which has moved the President of the United States recently to say, "Atomic war means race suicide," man will do well to develop an absolute will to peace, and disarm. Man must have a changed heart, and a new attitude toward international life and the will to strive harder than he now does, to make a disarmed world an accomplished fact.

Five chief objectives must be reached if disarmament is to be genuine, universal, and permanent.

First: Man needs to develop and define universal, mutual goals which can be clearly recognized and agreed upon as those which men everywhere are striving to achieve.

Second: The will, the determination to adhere to peaceful methods of effecting economic, social, and political change is an only way in which the values and goals which he has defined as universal can be reached. War on any level, and especially the possibility of atomic and hydrogen warfare, will fail in achieving even these goals and the security and welfare of a militarily victorious nation.

Third: Disarmament requires the establishment of mutual confidence between the nations, especially the large nations, and also practical technical steps for the maintenance of mutual confidence. Technical steps must be clearly defined, put into practice, and supervised by international controls as to make them both acceptable and effective.

Fourth: We stress the fact that disarmament must be universal and complete. The renunciation of armament races and of atomic and hydrogen bombs and all forms of international war will require the application of the whole range of peaceful methods and techniques for creating the conditions which support peace, and for utilizing all diplomatic channels and international agencies in the solving of disputes, the investigation of complaints, and the maintenance of world peace.

Fifth: It is the function of the Church to work with God, the Creator and sustainer of the universe and of society, in the achievement of a warless world, replaced by an international society which, by adherence to the peaceful solutions of differences and disputes, may enter, through the use of a creative approach, into a progressively changing economic, social, and political order on a world scale.

Many will be skeptical regarding current proposals for disarmament. Others may appear too naive. But, a substantial and ever-growing

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number of people are aware of the possibility and desirability of worldwide disarmament and are contributing to its accomplishment. Furthermore, never have all the major governments of the world given so much time and discussion to efforts to arrive at a common mind and method for achieving disarmament. Current discussions concerning aerial inspection, pilot test areas for experimentation, drastic reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces, international inspection of seaports, and observation of areas of unrest with United Nations' mediators have been placed before the nations.

We express our belief that there is hope of a definite advance toward disarmament during the current year.

U.N. CHARTER REVIEW CONFERENCE

The United Nations Assembly adopted a resolution to create a committee of the whole U.N. membership to consider the setting up of a Charter review conference! The vote was taken November 21, 1955, on the resolution sponsored by the United States, Britain, Canada, Ecuador, Iraq, Thailand, and Uruguay, and it passed the Assembly by a vote of 43 to 6 with 9 abstentions. Under the resolution, the committee will make its recommendations to the 12th Session of the General Assembly (1957), making a review conference unlikely before 1958.

In supporting the resolution, Mr. Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines said in part, "A review conference is far from the be-all and end-all of a solution to all our problems. It will bring to pass no miracles in world organization or world peace. But at least it will set a time and place for full and appropriate consideration of our ability to do our job... We are representatives and delegates, true; but in an even greater sense we are custodians -- the custodians of the greatest idea yet to be conceived by the mind of man -- that the violence among nations in the world may yet yield to the courage and imagination of men in constructing a rule of law, and that our modest-sized planet may in time and fact become the good earth."

We Methodists will endeavor to make the most of the opportunity a review conference will afford us in advancing the spirit and teachings of the Prince of Peace, that we may achieve a practical and permanent "Peace on Earth!"

C.F.B.Jr.

TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

March 9, 1956

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President: You have our congratulations and pledge of support on four international policies for peace which you have recently announced. Every American should recognize the importance and far-reaching significance of your labors for genuine world peace. I refer to:

One: your continuing important correspondence with Premier Bulganin looking toward success in meeting the imperative need for universal disarmament.

Two: your strong appeal for united action through the United Nations for the reduction of tensions and creation of conditions making for lasting peace in the Middle East.

Three: your support of a more liberal extensive program of technical assistance and economic aid to the underdeveloped nations and

Four: your bold and far-reaching announcement releasing unprecedented amount of uranium for peaceful uses in many areas of the globe. Your leadership for peace reveals a deep Christian concern worthy of the American tradition and ideal, hence this word of appreciation and support. May the prayers of people and their respective institutions of religion, both East and West of a great barrier which we hope before long may be dissolved, result in the building in our generation of foundations and structure of a just and lasting peace for mankind.

Charles F. Boss, Jr., Executive Secretary
Board of World Peace of The Methodist Church

REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION REVISED

The Board of World Peace has just published a 1956 edition of Register Christian Opinion!, the very convenient and valuable guide to legislative action. This thirteenth edition has been revised and brought completely up-to-date with all changes in the membership of House and Senate and their standing committees included. Now is the time to order copies for use during the current session of Congress. 10¢ each, 50¢ per dozen, $3.50 per 100.

After the fall elections and the organization of the new Congress early next year, the 1957 edition of Register Christian Opinion! will be prepared. It should be available from the Board of World Peace after February 10, 1957.

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE ADOPTS POLICY ON WAR

(December 13, 1955)

We have already reported in the last issue of the COURIER on policy statements adopted by the Board of World Peace on universal disarmament, universal military training, technical assistance, and economic aid. The Board also adopted a statement on "The Church and War," paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 5 of which are contained in a report entitled Christians in the Struggle for World Community, which was received by the Second General Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Evanston, Illinois, in August 1954. The text follows:

1. "Deeply and persistently man longs for peace. He no longer finds any glamour in war; he has tasted the fruit of its insanity and found it bitter and poisonous. His ideals are mocked, his liberty curtailed, his possessions destroyed and his future undermined by total war even as its high-sounding goals have eluded his grasp. He is sick of it, and wants to be at peace!

2. "Christians everywhere are committed to world peace as a goal. However, for them 'peace' means far more than mere 'absence of war'; it is characterized positively by freedom, justice, truth and love. For such peace the Church must labor and pray.

3. "Christians must also face the fact that such a peace will not be easily or quickly attained. We live in a world in which from generation to generation ignorance of God and rebellion against Him have resulted in greed and an insatiable lust for power. War and its evils are the consequences. Basically the problem is a spiritual one, and economic and political measures alone will not solve it. Men's hearts must be changed. This is always the supreme evangelistic challenge to the Church, although we must confess that our response has been tragically casual and feeble."

4. War, like all other maladjustments in human society, such as poverty, disease, slavery, divorce, etc., all of which are contrary to the will of God, is the result of countless acts committed knowingly or ignorantly contrary to the will of God by many human beings. These evils are the results of greed, suspicion, prejudice, hate, deceit, injustice, the denial of universal brotherhood, the lack of self-control. These are the sins that produce war, poverty, disease, etc. These are the sins that represent the broad way that leads to destruction. These are the sins which Jesus denounced and which His Church must give itself with increased intelligence and consecration to eradicate from the life of the world.

5. "It is not enough for the churches to proclaim that war is evil. They must study afresh the Christian approaches to peace, taking into account both Christian pacifism as a mode of witness and the conviction of Christians that in certain circumstances military action is justifiable. Whatever views Christians hold in respect of these approaches, they must seek out, analyze, and help to remove the psychological and social, the political and economic causes of war. Without forsaking their conviction that all weapons of war are evil, the churches should press for restraints on their use. Christians in all lands must plead with their governments to be patient and persistent in their search for means to limit weapons and advance disarmament."

MR. AVERAGE METHODIST GIVES ONE PENNY PER YEAR TO BOARD OF WORLD PEACE

Mr. Average Methodist gives one penny per year to world peace. That is, one penny per year is his average contribution to the Board of World Peace, which reaches the Board through the Council on World Service and Finance. This represents the less than 1%, namely .92%, which is the ratio of World Service received by the Board of World Peace for its work. To be sure, many Methodists contribute in some other way toward world peace. No one assumes that this represents the full measure of interest of members of The Methodist Church or even some children and young people who are not members but attend the church or church school. Many Methodists do give more than a penny a year, but in the distribution of World Service, this is all, on the average, we get from Mr. Average Methodist. One penny per year! This provides one-third of a first class postage stamp.

"Brother, can you spare a dime?" We do not doubt but what the great majority of Methodists would each give a doughnut (nickel) or a cup of coffee (dime) to the service of our Board of World Peace if they were in direct contact. The problem is largely in how to reach the individuals. We applaud when we consider how many millions of dollars are given to The Methodist Church by its members in the course of the year -- given for all of its purposes. Through imagination, many of you readers might contemplate the increased possibilities for strengthening the world peace program of The Methodist Church if Mr. Average Methodist could find a way to give a nickel, or even could spare a dime per member for the movement, which must succeed if the war with atomic and hydrogen weapons is to be averted:

One, we hope General Conference may find a way or ways to greatly increase our income.

Two, in answer to letters received, we have informed interested persons that World Service Special Gift Vouchers may be given for gifts beyond apportionments to the Board of World Peace. What should, what can, be done about this, Mr. Average Methodist?

The reader may be interested also in a lesson on World Peace, which will appear in the Adult Bible Course (quarterly) dated for August 19. It explores Bible teaching on the subject of World Peace. The article is by Mack B. Stokes. Be on the lookout for it.
(Information from Lyndon B. Phifer, Associate Editor of Adult Publications.)

SPECIAL RESOURCE PAMPHLETS

UN FACT SERIES--United Nations Headquarters. One of a series of brief and informative leaflets. Send to U.N. Department of Public Information, U.N., New York.

INTRODUCING ORGANIZATION FOR TRADE COOPERATION. A State Department pamphlet describing the nature and purposes of OTC. Send to U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. (1956), 15¢.

THE ORGANIZATION FOR TRADE COOPERATION AND ITS RELATION TO THE GATT. An excellent brief presentation of the way in which the OTC is intended to aid in the administration of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. A special supplement of the Trade Talk bulletin of the Committee for a National Trade Policy. Free.

SEEDS OF PROGRESS. Eight stories of technical assistance with pertinent maps and a statement of continuing needs. U.N. Department of Public Information (1955). 30¢.

GREAT DECISIONS: U.S. LOOKS AHEAD. Foreign Policy Association Headline book #115, Jan.-Feb. 1956. 35¢.

RENUNCIATION OF FORCE--U.S. and Chinese Positions. The text of the actual documents submitted by the United States and Communist China in their negotiations about the use of force in relation to Formosa. Send to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 15¢.

Unless otherwise indicated, these pamphlets may be ordered from the Board of World Peace, 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Illinois.

MAY L. TITUS REPORTS ON M.Y.F. PROJECT

"Toward Christian World Community" was the theme of the M.Y.F. Fall Action Project, opening on World Order Sunday, October 23, and concluding the day after Human Rights Day.

The emphasis was on missions, world peace, and overseas relief. Cooperating agencies were the Board of World Peace, the Youth Department of the Board of Education, the Board of Missions, the National Conference of Methodist Youth, and the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief. The Fall Action Project was part of the program of the M.Y.F. and dealt with many issues related to world peace.

The Project was introduced in churches on World Order Sunday, October 23. Youth visited adult classes and presented the Project to the entire congregation. Many M.Y.F. groups observed the tenth anniversary of the United Nations by having a U.N. Birthday Party on U.N. Day. Intermediates and seniors, calling on Halloween for their "Trick or Treat," collected money for UNICEF. In some local churches and in districts or conferences, plays on world peace were presented and peace retreats were held.

The Fall Action Project should result in making the world Christian fellowship come alive. It has helped youth understand their responsibility as Christians to work for world peace. It has given many youth a glimpse of their role as stewards of their time, talents, and possessions. It has helped them to continue to find ways of working toward Christian World Community wherever they are.

U.N. DRAMA CONTEST

A One-Act Play About the U.N.:

Open to all students regularly registered in a college or university during any part of the school year, 1955-56.

Award: A trip to New York City for the winner and production of the play by a little theatre group during United Nations Week. Manuscripts must be received in Room 637, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y., by June 5, 1956. For further information, write to Mrs. Clifford Bender at this address.

Sponsors: Methodist Board of Missions Woman's Division of Christian Service and Student Department.

Judges: Dr. Harold Ehrensperger, professor Boston University; Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, U.N. Radio; Mrs. Mary Lord, U.S. representative, Human Rights Commission; Mr. Guthrie McClintic, producer; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, American Association for the U.N.

NEW BOARD WORLD PEACE STATEMENT ON R.O.T.C.

(December 13, 1955)

Many Methodist colleges have R.O.T.C. units on their campuses or are considering the installation of such units. We recognize the financial difficulties confronting most of our church colleges and universities which, in many instances, have influenced them to take this step. Since the installation of R.O.T.C. units in church colleges is in violation of the principle of separation of church and state, we urge our Methodist people, our local churches, and our annual conferences to provide adequate financial support for our educational institutions so they may not feel compelled to choose this course of action. (Vote of Board of World Peace: 14 for, 2 against.)

WHAT ABOUT MILITARY SERVICE AND MY FAITH?

The above is the title of a series of lessons written for the July 1956 ROUNDTABLE by Mr. Herman Will. The subjects he treats are under the headings: The Early Church and War, A Changing View of War, The Government and the Problem of Conscience, Making My Choice, and Witnessing for Christ.

In a day when millions of men are under arms and Christian youth are struggling with the problems of their education, vocation, and conscience in view of the character of combat and atomic warfare, this series of lessons should be of deep interest and of considerable help to our Methodist young people. C.F.B.Jr.